

FLATHEAD COUNTY LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES (unapproved) THURSDAY, June 14th, 2007

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call

Members Present

Kerry Finley
Myrt Webb
Gary Hall
Marcia Sheffels
Velvet Phillips-Sullivan
Mike Pence
Guy Foy
Turner Askew
Karen Reeves

Members Absent

Diana Blend
Chuck Roady
Jed Fisher
Jeff Harris
Dennis Hester
Bob Horne
Pam Kennedy
Jane Leivo
Jennifer Gerber
Don Hines
Tom Jentz
Charlie Johnson
Mike Meehan
Jim Patrick
Joe Russell
Bill Shaw
Richard Surynt

Others

Chuck Sieler
Clara Hazelwood
BJ Grieve

Agenda Approval

- Approved with the addition of "donut areas".

Minutes Approval

- Approved

Old Business: Committee Reports

Transportation Committee – Guy Foy

Transportation committee met and discussed a variety of topics:

- Discussed McMannamy Draw road issues

- Presented the idea of creating an Advisory Board which would advise the road department on road related issues (e.g. dust abatement). Gary Hall reports that the Commissioners did take action and will appoint a board.
- Commissioners asked for more updated traffic count books
- Discussed future planning for roads and setting up corridors, collectors, etc.

DISCUSSION

Gary Hall and BJ Grieve discussed - When corridors are identified, it would be good to create a map and adopt this document as official record. Developers could then reference it at the planning office and determine what they need to do to preserve the defined corridors.

Guy Foy – it would be useful to get copies of the Peccia studies to determine how we might be able to utilize the information therein. Guy

We need to provide education to the public on the costs of maintaining roads compared to what is available through taxes so that people can develop an understanding of what the tax dollars can/cannot cover and become partners in determining other ways of funding road maintenance.

Ideas include:

- Form districts and have people pay for the services they want (Myrt Webb and Mike Pence)

Land Use – Myrt Webb

- The Land Use committee has met 8 times since January. They are charged with recommending areas that are/are not suitable for development.
- To date, they have compiled a variety of data and spoken with several subject matter experts.
- Myrt demonstrated a tool that can be used to identify various attributes about the county (e.g. fire risk, water, sewer, school districts, wells, septic systems, etc.) and that this will be useful in looking at areas suitable for development.
- The committee plans to present in September.

DISCUSSION

Developers are working with the schools to look at inventory, loading/unloading zones, etc., in order to assist with planning for growth (e.g. new wells, etc.)

Districts are reticent to give up territory because it means giving up funding when houses are built on that territory. If schools cannot house the youth then they have to look at merging with other districts or paying to send the students to other schools.

Affordable Housing – Cara Cameron

Group met on Tuesday to define scope and generate ideas on affordable housing. They discussed the scope of what affordable housing was needed which includes:

- Workforce housing
- New home buyers
- Move-up home buyers

The committee also brainstormed on solutions and generated a list of 20+ ideas. Next step is to divide the list among sub groups who will perform further research on the ideas in preparation for making recommendations.

DISCUSSION

Gary participated in a meeting with the HAL group (Housing Affordability Ladder) and notes that there is good collaboration across these groups. Advises that we organize a HAL update at one of our future task force meetings.

New Business:

Impact Fee Update – BJ Grieve

The Impact Fee Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly for the past 6 months. They decided they would start with a jail impact fee. Some of the reasons behind choosing the jail (over transportation, roads, water, waste water disposal, storm water collection, medical rescue, fire, etc.) were:

- A lot of information already exists because the sheriff's department has been preparing data and documents which can be utilized in this impact fee process.
- No districts make it less complicated – the jail supports the whole county.
- Learning curve – if we can go through the process with the jail and become educated from that process – the next effort will benefit from those lessons learned.

Web Page Update

Web has been working with Andrea Falcon to publish. Contact Myrt to for her contact information.

Gas Tax Committee Formation

Discussed thoughts/concerns regarding forming a Gas Tax committee at this time:

- Only an additional ~\$0.25 at the pump
- May not be popular since gas prices are already high.
- Would generate ~\$500,000 – cities get 2/3rds of this.

September 13th will be our next meeting

Task Force Member Comment Period

Topic of donut areas deferred until next meeting.

Public Comment Period

Clara Hazelwood – is interested in affordable housing – applauds the efforts of the task force.

Allen (Chuck) Seiler will be a frequent listener – works on the bike trails project which is interested in getting bike trails in Kalispell to get kids safely to Woodland Park.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.